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ABSTRACT

A radio communication system has a random access channel for the transmission of data (214) from a secondary station to a primary station. Such a channel is intended for use by secondary stations having data (214) to transmit to a primary station while not actually engaged in a call. A problem with known systems of this type is that a secondary station requesting access also specifies which of a plurality of resources it wishes to access. If that resource is busy access is denied, even if other suitable channels are available. In the present system allocation of a channel is performed by the primary station when acknowledging (206,210) a secondary station's access attempt (202,208), thereby eliminating wasted attempts. In one embodiment the primary station also periodically broadcasts a short message indicating the availability of channels for access attempts.

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(Figure 4)